

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-7 (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for separating water from a ~~water/oil emulsion mixture of oil and water~~ comprising:
a column containing granules comprised of a bed of super absorbent polymeric material, said column further comprising a mixture of oil and water, and said column having an inlet and an outlet for passing said emulsion mixture of oil and water through said bed of super absorbent polymeric material.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said inlet is located below said outlet so that said emulsion mixture of oil and water flowing through said column flows upwardly through said column.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9 comprising a plurality of columns connected in parallel between a source of said emulsion mixture of oil and water and a retained oil outlet.

11. (Originally Presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said apparatus includes an auger positioned in the interior of said column.

12. (Originally Presented) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said bed of granules is a fluidized bed.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8 additionally including [[an]] a granule removal outlet for removing granules from said column and [[an]] a granule addition inlet for adding granules to said column.